

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KAWADA et al. 6,213,020 in view of VERLINDEN et al. 5,871,879. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The present claims are directed toward a method and apparatus for recording an image using a laser beam emitted from a laser recording head. The image is recorded on a glass substrate which is wound upon a drum. The parameters of the radius of the drum and the characteristics of the glass are selected such that they are within a bending permissible stress of the glass.

The primary KAWADA et al. reference discloses a drum-type laser recording apparatus for CTP (computer to plate). The secondary VERLINDEN et al. reference discloses a glass support with a coating wound onto a roll. Applicant respectfully suggests that the present invention as represented by the current claims, which provide for recording the image on the glass substrate in a cylindrical form by using a laser head with a low-cost apparatus, is clearly neither taught nor suggested by the applied references, when considered by one of skill in the art. Further, although the VERLINDEN et al. reference mentions in

passing a failure stress of the glass, such reference clearly fails to offer any teaching or suggestion that the glass substrate is wound on a drum within the bending permissible stress, as is the case with the present invention as claimed.

Additionally, the VERLINDEN et al. reference clearly fails to disclose that a radius of curvature of the drum is set when the glass substrate is wound. This feature is recited in new claims 17 and 18, and is described in the specification in the text from page 11, line 19 to page 14, line 1.

The Official Action rejects claim 8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KAWADA et al. in view of VERLINDEN et al. as applied to claim 5, and further in view of VOGELGESANG et al. 5,342,682. The added VOGELGESANG et al. reference is offered merely for its asserted teaching or suggestion of the cylindrical support member being formed with a plurality of discs arranged in an axial direction.

However, irrespective of the ability of such additional reference to teach or suggest that for which it is specifically offered, it nevertheless fails to overcome the shortcomings of the combination of KAWADA et al. and VERLINDEN et al., as addressed in detail in connection with the first obviousness rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Please note that applicant has added new claims 9-18. Each of the newly added claims depends ultimately from an

original independent claim, and each recites further features of the present invention that are neither taught nor suggested by the known prior art, including those references already of record.

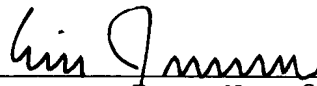
In light of the amendments presented above and the arguments offered in support thereof, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Eric Jensen, Reg. No. 37,855
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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